



VA BOSTON HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
150 South Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02130

Dear Applicant:

Attached are copies of the application form and descriptive brochure for the 2021-2022 Psychology Practicum Program at the VA Boston Healthcare System (VA BHS). Qualifications include advanced placement in your program, including prior practicum placement. We accept applications from all local APA-approved doctoral programs in clinical and counseling psychology. **Please note that longstanding VA BHS policy is to give placement preference, when appropriate, to qualified applicants from our academic affiliates (Boston University and Harvard).**

I'd like to point out some important aspects of the application for this year; other instructions are contained in the application form itself.

► **First**, for non-affiliate students, we intend to abide by the recruiting recommendations of the MPA Practicum Training Collaborative (PTC). Thus, we will not be making offers to non-affiliate students prior to the Match Day of Monday, February 8, 2021. **However, to simplify both our interview and selection processes, offers to affiliate students may be extended, in conjunction with agreements reached with their programs' respective DCTs, prior to the PTC notification date.** If a rotation places with an affiliate student prior to the notification date, we will inform all other applying students of this fact. We believe that this process has the potential to improve the placement process for everyone.

**For affiliate students**, applications will be accepted **beginning on Wednesday, November 25, 2020**; interviews will begin to be arranged the following week. We will conduct interviews with affiliate students according to the following guidelines.

1. After interviewing affiliate students, we will begin making offers according to a rank ordering of applicants. A student will have 48 hours to consider an offer.
2. The core agreement is that an affiliate student can accept an early offer that is binding on both parties. If the student wants to continue to explore options, they will certainly continue to be considered for a position with us. However, they are now treated on an equal footing with non-affiliate students, meaning:
  - a) they will be ranked without further consideration of their affiliate status;
  - b) they will not hear from us again until notification day.
3. If the first affiliate student to whom we've made an offer does not accept the early offer, and if there is another affiliate student that meets our selection criteria, we then will make an offer to them before notification day (and the parameters described in #2 will again apply to the second student).
4. Any unfilled positions are offered on notification day.
5. If a position is filled prior to notification day, we will publicize that the slot is now filled to all interested parties, (i.e., all applying students and their DCTs.)

**For non-affiliate students**, we will begin accepting electronic submission of a completed application and CV for non-affiliated students on **Wednesday, December 2, 2020** with a final deadline of COB on **Monday, January 4, 2021**. Invitations for interviews will be extended beginning the next week. Interviews will typically be conducted over the last three weeks of January and the first week of February. We ask that all students be in close communication with their DCTs about this process, and that they feel free to contact me if they have any questions or encounter any impediments to successfully participating in the Match.

► **Second**, please note that **these practica do not meet Massachusetts requirements as Advanced Practicum, and as a result will not qualify as clinical hours for MA licensure**. Please verify the status of the rotation at the time of your interview.

► **Third**, we require a cover letter. In this letter, we ask students to describe their interests and qualifications for rotations in which they have a strong interest, and that they do this **for at least one and NO MORE THAN THREE rotations**. We continue to ask students to list in the application all graduate courses taken and/or anticipated to be completed by the time of entry into practicum training. We do this to help us efficiently screen applications and match them to appropriate training situations.

A final issue is dictated by the increasing space constraints that exist at all of our training sites, but in particular at the Jamaica Plain campus. **Each rotation has assigned days for attendance that are required**. Please pay close attention to the time commitments for each rotation and discuss any questions you might have with the relevant supervisor(s). These days typically are non-negotiable due to the demands on space that exist in this hospital setting. **The practicum program reserves the right to rescind an offer to a student who accepts a placement, then states after accepting that they cannot be at the VA for any portion of the days specified in the brochure.**

Please contact me with any questions. I can be reached via email at [Colleen.Jackson@va.gov](mailto:Colleen.Jackson@va.gov) or by phone at 857-364-2081.

Sincerely,

Colleen Jackson

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